

APPROVED 01/15/2009

At 6:12 pm Gates called the meeting to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Donald Gates Jr and Brett Hunter. Gene Cordes walked in moments after the meeting had been called to order.

Carlson distributed copies of documents for the Board to read and review including some updated budget information and warrant.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 23 December 2008. Motion was made to approve them as written by Hunter. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 3-0. The minutes of 30 December 2008 were deferred to next week.

2. At the January 7, 2009 Planning Board meeting the Members Board voted that, based on the Road Agent's recommendation, the Town retain \$4,700 of the Gristmill Phase I road bond and release the balance to Mr. Weymouth/Gristmill Realty upon the written notice from the Road Agent that all of the concerns raised in his January 7, 2008 letter have been satisfactorily addressed.

Brett moved to release \$12,300 of the Gristmill Phase I maintenance bond (retaining \$4,700 for work as recommended by the Town Engineer. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

3. At the January 7, 2009 Planning Board meeting the Members Board voted that based on the written favorable report from Road Agent Guerwood Holmes, the Planning Board recommend to the Selectmen that Rislove's Way be placed on the 2009 Town Meeting Warrant for acceptance as a Town road.

Hunter moved to accept this recommendation. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

4. At the January 7, 2009 Planning Board meeting the Members Board voted that, based on the Fremont Road Agent's recommendation, the Board recommend the release if all but \$2,500 of the 2-year road maintenance bond for Tuck Woods Phase I. The balance is to be released upon favorable written recommendation of the Road Agent.

This was predicated on a January 7, 2009 letter to the Planning Board from Road Agent Guerwood Holmes reporting that he has inspected the road and found that the road and culverts were ok, but he could not see the condition of the shoulders because of the snow. He is therefore recommending that the bond be released except for \$2,500 in case the shoulders of the road need gravel. He said that this could be released in the spring after another inspection.

Hunter moved to accept the recommendation and release all but \$2,500 with Road Agent approval in the spring. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

5. Carlson advised that per a revised review by DRA and information from Town Counsel, the snow date for the deliberative session must be sooner than the February 7th date initially set. The Board decided that the snow date, to meet the provisions of the statute, would be **Monday night February 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm**. Ellis School has been reserved for this session.

Neal Janvrin came into the meeting at 6:40 pm.

6. Selectmen discussed again the repairs to the North Road wall at the edge of the Miller Property in follow-up to earlier discussions that this would be a warrant article at the 2009 Town Meeting. There has not been an article included yet to do this, and it needs to be decided prior to the Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday. After much discussion, the Board decided to include this as a warrant article for the cost of the stone work (as per bids submitted) and the estimated cost added for guardrail as may be determined by Engineer Bill Rollins. Carlson will prepare the article and get it on the next review of the warrant. It will be sent out to the Budget Committee on Friday as well, for review prior to the Public Hearing. The Board voted to recommend this article on the warrant.

7. Warrant updates – Carlson provided information to the Board based on a session at DRA on Tuesday regarding the cable access Town Trust Fund. There has been a change in statute permitting that cable access funds can be set up as revolving funds pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-h, which was enacted in July 2008. Their suggestion was that the Town Trust Fund be discontinued as there is no money in the fund; and create a revolving fund for cable access pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-h. The Board agreed and these articles will also be rewritten on the warrant.

8. The Board was also given copies of a voter guide document for review and comment. It is fully a “work in progress” and will be used in final form after the deliberative session.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hunter moved to approve the payroll manifest \$17,372.61 dated 01/09/2009. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved. Gates moved to approve the accounts payable manifest \$12,426.33 dated 01/09/2009. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved. Gates moved to approve the accounts payable manifest \$12,660.69 dated 12/29/2008. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

At 7:00 pm Selectmen moved to Department Head session and talked with Chief Janvrin. There was discussion about the need to do line item transfers with the Board

Richard Butler came into the meeting at approximately 7:05 pm.

There was discussion about the Budget Committee recommendations on the Police Department budget, as well as follow-up to recent Board discussions when Janvrin was not able to attend Board meetings. Selectmen encouraged Janvrin to put a positive spin on it in presenting it to employees, in that we are not looking at layoffs, we have jobs, and the people that they are policing are paying their salaries, and many of those folks in the community are not getting pay raises this year or may be unemployed.

The goal of the new matrix is to get everyone an increase, but effectively foregoes a “cost of living” increase in 2009. Given the economy, this is not an unreasonable challenge, and Janvrin said he certainly understood, but was concerned about employee retention.

There was discussion about the working environment in a small rural community like Fremont versus a city, where they may get a higher wage, but will work in a different atmosphere.

Janvrin then offered an update relative to the Animal Control Truck. He said that the radio and lights have been installed, and it is in Candia to be striped and lettered. The old truck is ready to be sold by sealed bid, and Janvrin was asked to get information to the Town Office so it can be offered for sale.

In further budget discussions, Janvrin said he had put many programs on hold this year due to gas prices, and that when the prices came down he did not go on a spending freeze. Thus he is turning money back for 2008, and had the funds to purchase the truck in 2008.

Janvrin left the meeting at 7:30 pm and Vinnie Iacozzi came in to the meeting.

Butler talked briefly with the Board and he left the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Iacozzi met with the Board and presented a letter regarding the status of his property, they will be paying all of the taxes current up through 2008. He asked the Board for an interest rate deduction as had been done in 2004 when he was ill.

Iacozzi said this would bring everything current and put the property in their name only, settling the discourse between he and Mr Torromeo.

The Board agreed to do this, calculating at 6% and would prepare an abatement at such time as the balances were paid for all outstanding years.

At 7:50 pm Mr Iacozzi left the meeting and the Board took a 10 minute recess.

At 8:00 pm the meeting returned to session.

2. Selectmen reviewed a letter from resident Kate Dumas who has expressed interest in the Trustee of Trust Funds position. She will be in next week to meet with the Board.

3. Selectmen reviewed and signed a Land Use Change Tax for Stephen & Diane Brogan on parcel 02-026. This represents their construction of a new house on this lot. The penalty is in the amount of \$8,400.00. This will be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

4. At last evening's meeting, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Building Official Thomas Roy be appointed as an Alternate Member to the Planning Board. Currently the Planning Board has vacancies for four alternate members.

There have been several instances recently (4) when the Planning Board could not hold a meeting due to the lack of a quorum because of conflicting duties of the Members. The Board feels this would allow them to operate in the event of an otherwise lack of quorum.

He already attends the meetings and brings with him a wealth of knowledge as a Town Official and a past member of the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Hunter moved to appoint Thom Roy as an Alternate to the Fremont Planning Board for a three year term. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. Board members signed the prepared appointment form for Thom Roy.

5. Selectmen reviewed abatements prepared by Joe Lessard of MRI for a proposed settlement of the 2007 BTLA case of Mark and Paula Marino. This would reduce the assessment for both years by \$39,500 in valuation to settle the pending NH BTLA appeal for 2007. It results in a 2007 refund of \$838.58 plus interest; and a 2008 refund of \$891.12 plus interest.

Selectmen discussed this proposal and reviewed the information from Lessard. Motion was made by Gates to approve the abatements as proposed for 2007 and 2008, conditional upon the settlement

agreement being prepared and signed by the Marino's, and forwarded to the Town for signature. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

6. Selectmen discussed Town Report updates from the printer and the front cover and back cover. The Board chose a photograph of the new Town of Fremont signs for the front cover of the report.

7. There was discussion on the default budget and how it had been put together. All items were reviewed with the Board for the few that were one time expenses purchased in 2008. The Board feels that the maintenance items that may be new one year, and replaced in another, are to be considered as part of the default budget.

NEXT WEEK

The Budget Committee Public Hearing on the Town Budget is at 7:30 pm on Tuesday January 13, 2009; a meeting of the Board of Selectmen is posted for 6:30 pm that evening to review any petition articles submitted.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday January 15, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by Gates to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator